



FAIR POLITICAL PRACTICES COMMISSION

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July 11, 2001

Honorable John Burton
President *pro Tempore*
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Senate Bill 34 (Support)

Dear Senator Burton:

The Fair Political Practices Commission supports Senate Bill 34, a measure which provides needed changes to the Political Reform Act as it was amended by Proposition 34 last November.

At its June 2001 meeting, the Commission voted to support the member communications provision (Section 85312) of SB 34. At its July 2001 meeting, the Commission voted to support SB 34 in its entirety.

The bill provides the following important improvements, among other changes, to Proposition 34:


1. Language requested by the Commission, which shifts the paid-ballot-spokesperson disclosure requirement from the spokesperson to the committee making the payment. (Government Code Section 84511.)
2. Language ensuring that member communications made by political parties are reported as contributions or expenditures and language requested by Commission staff to subject a political party to the online reporting provisions of Chapter 4.6 when it makes member communication payments. (Government Code Section 85312.)

3. A new requirement of elective state office candidates to disclose, within 10 business days of receipt, contributions of \$5,000 or more received more than 90 days prior to an election. (Government Code Section 85309.)
4. Clarification in the delayed-operative date language of Proposition 34 to subject statewide candidates to all but the contribution-and expenditure-limit related provisions of the initiative as of the date SB 34 is chaptered. (Section 18 of June 30, 2001 version of SB 34.)
5. Language clarifying that, when a candidate requests a communication by a political party to its members on behalf of his or her candidacy, the party must make expenditures for that purpose from funds that are subject to a \$25,000 per-contributor limit. (Government Code Section 85303.)

The Commission appreciates the willingness of you and your staff to accommodate our requests for clarifications of Proposition 34, and our concerns with earlier versions of the bill.

We urge the Legislature's early approval of SB 34 in order to give state candidates and committees adequate notice of these changes prior to the October 10, 2001 deadline for filing pre-election statements in connection with the March 5, 2002 primary election.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Getman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Getman
Chairman